

What works in the prevention and early intervention of ACEs at the community level?

Identifying and supporting projects across Wales

Dr Samia Addis, Joanne C Hopkins

Background & Aims

Previous research undertaken by ACE Hub Wales indicated that community projects across Wales provide support for community members in respect of a range of adversities. Building on this research, the aim of this project is to identify and map further community projects; to understand the most effective methods of supporting these projects as well as barriers to engagement; and finally, to explore the impact of services on community groups.

Methods

This project had three stages of data collection:

- Stage one was to undertake focus groups with stakeholders from community projects across Wales;
- Stage two was to develop a case study by identifying and mapping community projects in one area;
- Stage three was to undertake focus groups with the beneficiaries of services of three community projects across Wales.

Findings: Stage One

Discussion with stakeholders from projects and organisations across Wales identified three key themes -

Service Provision

- Practical support
- Need to be inclusive
- Gaps in statutory provision
- Early Intervention
- Stigma
- Strengths-based approach
- Acknowledging the impact of trauma

Supporting Community Project

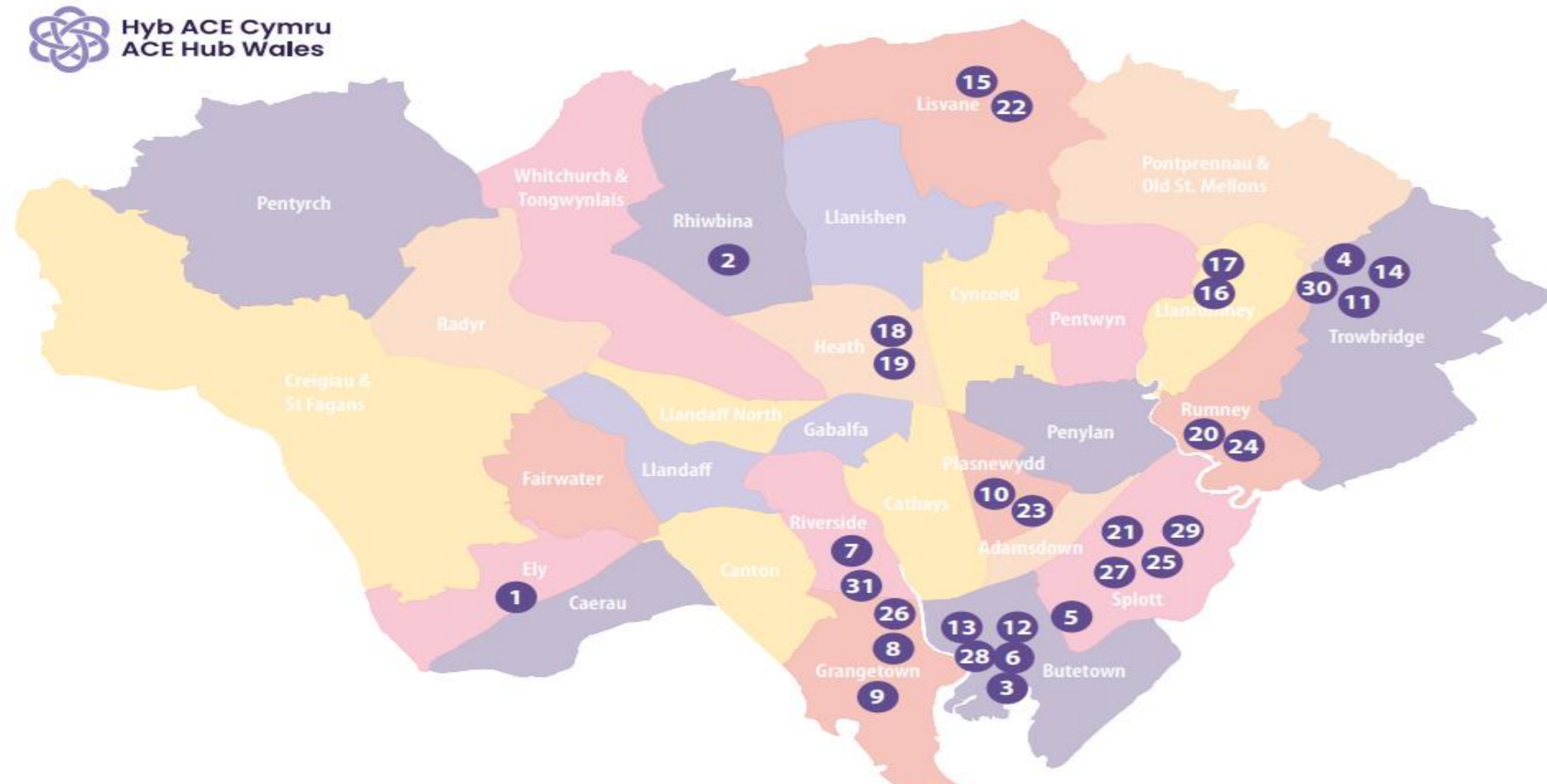
- Demands of funding applications
- Changing funding priorities
- Partnership working
- Short term nature of funding
- Staff retention
- Recognition and training for staff
- Support for staff

Engaging with Community Projects

- Accessible language
- Direct communication
- Support for those working within the trauma landscape
- Community organisations working together and supporting each other

Findings: Stage Two

Hyb ACE Cymru
ACE Hub Wales



Hyb ACE Cymru
ACE Hub Wales

The report was produced by the ACE Hub Wales with funding from the Welsh Government.

Findings: Stage Two

Thirty one community projects were mapped in Cardiff. These included projects which address a range of adversities and work with a range of community groups, including refugees and asylum seekers, families with young children and local communities.

Findings: Stage Three

A focus group with beneficiaries of services was undertaken with a well women group in North Wales. The group first met for an art class and carried on meeting to provide support. The group focusses on meditation, as well as baking, sewing and crafts.



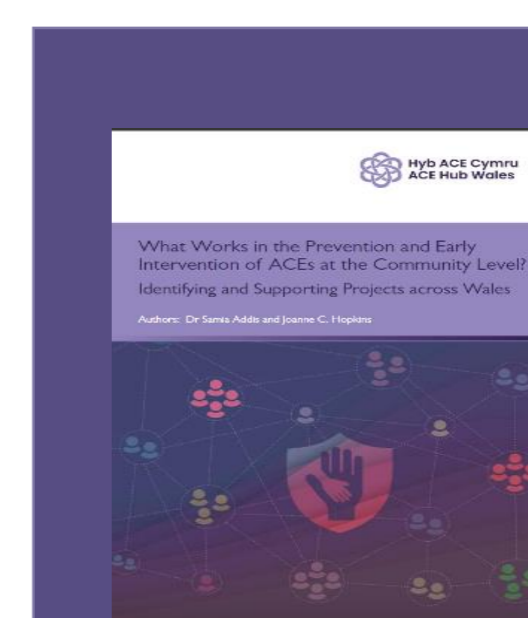
Implications for Policy and Practice

- Assistance to complete funding applications
- Funding for day-to-day running costs
- Bridge funding for staff
- Funding to encourage partnership working
- Practical assistance (e.g. website development)
- Publicity
- Good quality training for staff
- Developing community networks

Conclusion

Supporting community organisations requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing funding, staff support and development, and practical assistance. There is also a need for the development of networks which would facilitate mutual support and allow for a more cohesive provision of services.

Contact:
ace@wales.nhs.uk



To access the report, scan below

